

BOTTOM TIMES

Volume 3, Issue 1

November 2006

544th Engineer Light Dive Team

By CPT Darrow

Since publication of the last *Bottom Times*, the team has continued to mount a sizable name for the dive field. The team continued on from the Cobra Helicopter recovery and moved farther north to conduct a bridge removal mission. The bridge had been destroyed by the Marines during a campaign to reestablish control in the Anbar province. The crossing point was used daily by local Iraqis on floating rafts, and the commanding general for MNF-W made a new bridge in the area his top priority. An 8-man team, led by SSG West, was dispatched to the area to clear the centerline and make



way through the pile 2 feet up from the mud line and then utilized a Brocco torch to cut the metal pieces that fasten to the support beams. When all the piles had been severed at the mud line, a 40 ton crane was used to pull them out of the water where they were loaded onto a 40-foot flatbed truck and removed from the pier. The mission was scheduled to take 12 days. The team, led by SSG Langley, finished in 5 days.

After the pier mission, SFC Vaughan led a six-man team to the vicinity of Balad to inspect Iraqi bridge pontoon sections that had recently sunk due to an oversized vehicle attempting to cross. The Engineer Battalion in the area requested the divers to conduct a survey and possibly repair the damage to bring the bridge back to a fully mission capable status. After the team conducted an assessment, it determined that it would take 8 days to complete the recovery, but noted that the bridge was in bad repair and a recurrence was likely. The Engineer Battalion concluded that the bridge was not worth the work and decided to encourage the Iraqi government to arrange for the repairs.

Soon after that mission, SFC Vaughan was sent to the Anbar province to recover a downed medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) helicopter that had crashed in a remote reservoir, in the middle of the desert. Initially when the helicopter went down, a Navy explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team was

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way for a new bridge, which ultimately took two trips and 60 days to accomplish. The river flows at a constant rate of 10 feet per second, which the team mitigated by constructing a lightweight surface-supplied system in order to allow the divers to use the safer SL-17 diving helmet. The team used a multitude of techniques to remove bridge sections including pumping operations, underwater cutting operations, and 900 pounds of C4 explosives.

The 544th also conducted a fender pile removal mission at Kuwait Naval Base. The 39 fender piles for the ammunition pier were due for replacement and the team was tasked to remove the old piles so that a contractor could install a new system. The team utilized its underwater chainsaw to cut about 85 percent of the



dispatched to the area to recover the personnel and the helicopter. However, after they recovered the two missing personnel they declined to recover the aircraft. Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I) C7 then decided to bring in the 544th to get the job done and made arrangements to move SFC Vaughan's team to the area. The team pulled the helicopter out of the water within 12 hours of starting the operation, and followed up the next day with the recovery of all sensitive items.

Another team was requested through CFLCC by the Naval Central Command (NAVCENT) engineer section to the oil platforms for a reverse osmosis installation and to conduct repairs on the barrier systems. With support from the LSV-6, a civilian contracted tugboat, and a technical representative from Harbor



Offshore Incorporated, SSG West led his eight-man team to accomplish the mission utilizing scuba. The work involved replacing over 2,800 shakes and 2,000 feet of wire rope underwater, which was completed ahead of schedule. The team has maintained its support to security swims in Qatar and Oman through these major tasks, which has often spread the team thin. The U.S. Army Engineer Diver name has been strengthened during this deployment, and conducting operations throughout the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR) truly demonstrates our theater capabilities. Take care, and we will see you all real soon.



Al Qaim, Iraq: Bridge Removal—The 544th Engineer Light Dive Team removed 270 meters of damaged bridge using a combination of cutting torches and explosives.

Fort Eustis, Virginia, Dive Company

By CPT PJ Inskip and 1SG Patrick Andrews

COMMANDER DEEP SEA!!

I am extremely proud of the Dive Company. You, the leaders, Soldiers, and families of the Company, have continued to impress me in your day-to-day devotion to duty, desire for personal and professional excellence, and contagious motivation. This quarter, I especially want to recognize the members and families of the 544th. From recent conversations with 1LT Darrow and SFC Mendoza, I can verify that these divers are doing an outstanding job. They are in good hands and serving faithfully. Their morale is high, and they have been performing extremely well in support of the Global War on Terrorism. They are all true heroes and great Americans. All of the Soldiers are in my thoughts and prayers. We could not be prouder of what they have accomplished.

For those of us stateside, the summer has been as busy as ever. From the JLOTS mission in Guatemala, dam inspections in California, hull surveys in Philadelphia, dredging operations in New Mexico, diving the head of British Transportation at the tank, field exercises in Arkansas, port rehabilitations in New York, and a company field training exercise. We have kept our diving skills sharp.

The next couple of months will include missions to Seattle, a salvage exercise at 3rd Port, and our annual training event Deep Chocolate. This winter we will also focus on maintenance and much needed family time. Last, but definitely not least, we will be welcoming the 544th home from their year long deployment.

Bottom line Divers, you make mine and 1SG's jobs easy. Have a safe autumn season! Well done, Dive Company and family. HOO-YAH!!! DEEP SEA!!!

569th HOO-YAH!!!

By CPT Joe Malone

Friends and family of the Dive Company,

It's time again for the quarterly newsletter and, like always, the 569th has been running the Company from behind the scenes. SGT Pittman, our administrative clerk, has met every issue that has cropped up between the Company and our higher units. SSG Slate and SSG Moir have been handling all of the operational and training issues that have arisen within the Company. SGT Morgan and SGT LaRosa have been running the supply cage, and SSG Smith, SGT Thomas Owens, and SPC Simmons have been keeping our maintenance in check. And last but not least, SGT Wayne Owens has been fixing, or at least attempting to fix, every technological problem our Soldiers have thrown at him.

During the past few months, both 86th and 74th have been on TDY; and only the 511th has been around making life a little easier for the Soldiers of the 569th. Now that everyone has returned and the annual Company field training exercise (FTX) is fast approaching, things are starting to pick up around the office. Everyone is doing their part to ensure that the administrative side of the FTX goes off without a hitch. Upon completion of the FTX, hopefully things will slow down as we head into the winter season.

Over the past few months, we have had two new additions to the 569th family. SPC Kevin Simmons, his wife Bonnie, and their two children Katherine and Angelina joined us in June. And, 1LT Hallman has moved up from the 511th to the Head Shed to take over the role of Company Executive Officer. A position he is truly excited about! He brings with him his wife Brittany and his kids, Morgan, Michael, and George.

One more addition is to come in the near future. SGT Wayne Owens and his wife Sarah are expecting a baby boy within the next two weeks. Congratulations are forthcoming to the proud new parents.

I would now like to take this time to bid farewell to the family and friends of the Dive Company. My wife Meagan and I are heading to Fort Benning for the Infantry Captain's Career Course in mid-August. We would like to say thank you to everyone who made this experience a very memorable one. We could not have asked for a better unit to be assigned to. We will miss each and everyone of you.

74th Poseidon

By *ILT Trent Geisler*

The divers in the 74th have been saving the world one mission at a time. Since the start of the summer dive season in May, the divers in the 74th have deployed to Panama City Beach, Florida; Santa Rosa, New Mexico; Fort Chaffee, Arkansas; and Fort Pickett, Virginia. In Santa Rosa, the divers excavated rock and debris from the bottom of the Blue Hole using a hydraulic submersible pump, an airlift, and a little bit of Woogie man-draulics. While working at the Blue Hole, the following divers received awards for their outstanding efforts: SPC Daniel Gorman, SPC Timothy Tanfield, and SPC Erik Kuhn all received the Army Achievement Medal and SSG Weston Cox received the Army Commendation Medal. Great Job men! At Fort Chaffee and Fort Pickett, the divers enhanced their tactical field skills as they prepare for an upcoming deployment in October of 2007. The experience and camaraderie from each of these missions have been invaluable, and the divers have enhanced both the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive as an Army Deep Sea Diver.

Along with many exciting missions, the 74th has changed in personality and grown in number. The squad leaders in the 74th, SSG Cox and SSG Prater, have moved to the 86th and have changed out with SSG Curtis Custer and SSG Kyle Dodge. The 74th wants to thank SSG Cox and SSG Prater for their hard work, dedication, and contribution to the team. Besides the squad leaders changing out, the 74th has also changed out their maintenance noncommissioned officer (NCO) with SSG Thomas Christesen coming from the 86th. SSG Christesen's expertise and knowledge will be greatly appreciated. The new additions do not end there; three new divers from dive school arrived in early June. A warm 74th welcome goes out to SPC Joshua Palmer, PFC Humberto Santiago, and PFC Brett Taake.

Once again, the 74th would like to send out a warm and gracious thank you to all the wonderful spouses and significant others that support the divers on a daily basis. Your understanding and support are much needed and valued—thank you! Until next time, God Bless and HOO-YAH DEEP SEA!

The Mighty 86th

By *ILT Timothy Mitroka*

The Mighty 86th would like to welcome SFC Michael Sisk, who is replacing SFC Lou Rivera as the Platoon Sergeant. SSG Milton Prater and SSG Weston Cox are now in the 86th; SSG Steven Roberts has come over from the 511th; and the newcomers are PFC Kyle Nicholas, PFC Chaise Turner, PFC Benjamin Lane, and SPC Jason Jakovenko.

Since April, there hasn't been a week where we haven't had divers deployed on a mission or in training. The swimming platform demolition mission in Tyler, Texas, was a complete success (there was an article in The Wheel about this mission). The team will hopefully go back to Texas to conduct another mission for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to fix two broken wave breaks in Lake Ray Roberts, just north of Dallas. The team that deployed to the Bull Shoals Dam in Arkansas successfully retrieved the massive 5,550-pound roller chain from 125 feet below the dam. The same team made a stop at the Philpot Dam in western Virginia on their way back from Arkansas to recover a floodgate door that broke off its support cable. Shortly after returning home from this mission, the whole team departed for Panama City Beach, Florida, for the annual Deep Blue training exercise. The trip was a great opportunity to train the young divers on their supervisor skills and refresh everyone on their overall diver proficiency. When the team came back from Florida, a few of them took off for Operation Blue Hole out in Santa Rosa, New Mexico. This was a massive dredging operation of an 80-foot-deep natural spring. This was a great opportunity for all the divers attending, because it gave them a chance to do real life altitude diving. During Blue Hole, SPC Lisenby graduated from Air Assault and Rappel Master School.

The team then departed on 10 July for Jersey City, New Jersey, to conduct the annual mission to rehabilitate the piers at Caven Point Marine Terminal in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (New York District). This was a great mission for the entire team. The work was arduous, but worth the effort. The team also had the chance to visit New York City and see the sites.

We have the Company FTX to look forward to in the future along with a company salvage operation. We look forward to the training and stand ready for any mission to come.

511th Trident

SFC Brian Adams, 511th NCOIC

A Hoo-Yah Deep Sea greeting from the 511th!

The 511th has been busy planning and coordinating this year's FTX. We will spend 10 fun-filled days at Fort Pickett putting the 74th and 86th through the paces. After the FTX, we should round out the end of the busy season with a net removal mission for the Corps of Engineers in the Puget Sound.

Congratulations to SGT Parmenter and SGT Rowley who successfully completed the Air Assault course at Fort Pickett in June. A loud and thunderous Hoo-Yah to SSG Kaufman and SSG Connolly who are graduating phase three of BNCOC on 11 August and to SPC (now SGT) Tucker promoted as of 1 August.

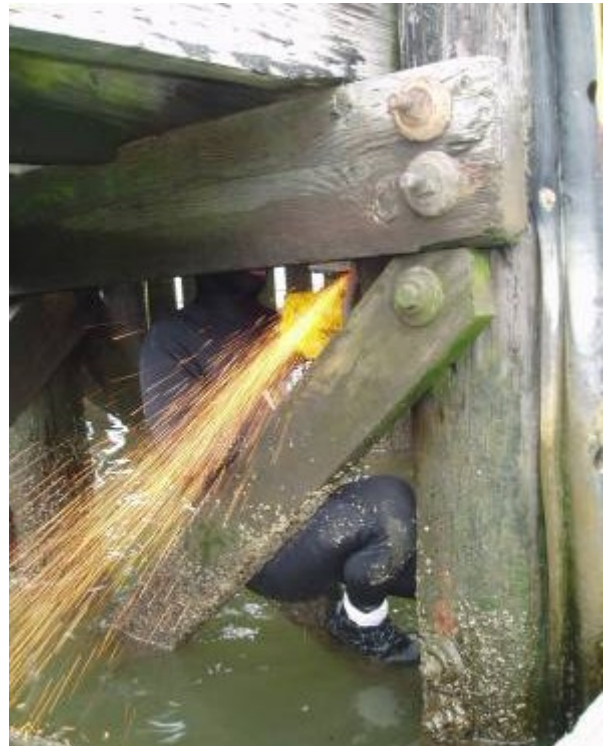
With the recent loss of 1LT Hallman to the XO position and the rapidly approaching PCS moves of SFC Adams to Rock Island, SPC Evers to Hawaii, SSG Connolly to Fort Leonard Wood, and SSG Woodcox to Panama City, the team will be going through some major personnel changes. SPC Preston and SPC Nadeau are a loss to the whole field with their ETS in August. All of these Soldiers will be greatly missed by the 511th. To backfill all of the losses, new divers are arriving from Panama City. Welcome to SPC Kratsas, SPC Key, SPC Vahey, PFC Murphy, PFC Stephens, PFC Behr, and PV2 Hyre.

Divers Conduct Pier Rehabilitation Mission in New Jersey

By 1LT Timothy Mitroka

On 10 July, 2006, 15 divers from the 86th Engineer Dive Team traveled to Jersey City, New Jersey, to conduct a mission for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Over the next 3 weeks the team rehabilitated the docking piers and quay walls at the Caven Point Marine Terminal. The terminal used to function as an old Army ammunition depot, but its purpose today is to dock numerous USACE vessels that travel throughout the New York and New Jersey waterways to collect floating debris, salvage sunken boats or other objects, and conduct surveys. The view looking north of the terminal is of the Statue of Liberty with New York City's downtown skyline behind it.

The team's main focus was replacing damaged cross brace support boards under all the piers. The boards average in size at 8 feet long by 3 inches thick and 10 inches wide. The process to remove the old boards consisted of having a few swimmers in the water using an underwater hydraulic impact wrench to loosen the hardware, which was usually covered in barnacles and rust. Then once freed, a line would be tied around the board so a team could lift it out of the water. Some of the hardware was so corroded; an underwater hydraulic grinding tool or



PFC Chaise Turner works under a pier using a hydraulic grinder to cut off rusted bolts before being able to remove a support board in need of replacing.

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PFC Jason Hayes uses an underwater cutting torch to burn through and detach the steel bolts that could not be removed using the hydraulic impact wrench.

cutting torch was needed to cut some of the boards free. Once removed and on the surface, another team would cut and drill holes in a new board to match the old one for replacement. Swimmers would then attach the new board with brand new hardware to keep it in place for the next few years before this process repeats itself. The work had its challenges, but for the most part everything ran smoothly and, 98 boards later, the team was finished with the main task of the mission.

Other tasks conducted around the terminal consisted of replacing a 40-foot wooden bumper which undergoes an annual replacement because it functions as a pivot point on a quay wall for one of the largest vessels there. Over a year's time, the bumper becomes severely chipped and the bolts securing it begin to protrude and scrape up against the vessel when it's docked. The team also used the support of a small crane to recovery an approximate 90-foot section of a

horizontal brace that had broken off from its support piles and became submerged. Using the crane, the team was able to reposition this large section back into its original place and resecure it so that it does not break off again in the future. The team also utilized its surface-supplied diving gear to send divers underneath the terminal's boat lift. Divers used a fire hose to spray out all the debris from the bottom of the boat lift. The team also installed a buoy about 75 feet out from one of the terminal's quay walls to warn boat traffic of a shallow area that is piled with rubble from an old demolished building.

The mission was a complete success; the Dive Company always looks forward to working with Caven Point. This pier rehabilitation mission has been an annual mission for the company for the past 6 years. It gives the Soldiers the opportunity to train and increase their proficiency in using underwater hydraulic tools as well as conducting small scale underwater construction operations. The work is long, arduous, and backbreaking, but that does not seem to slow the Dive Company one bit.



Right: SPC Daniel Kennedy hangs over a ledge in order to drill a new hole in a pile. SGT Brandon Rohde provides in-water support.

The Blue Hole

By First Lieutenant Trent D. Geisler

From 30 May until 30 June, members of the 74th, 86th, 511th, and 569th Engineer Dive Teams from the U.S. Army Dive Company in Fort Eustis, Virginia, deployed to Santa Rosa, New Mexico, in order to conduct dredging operations at the bottom of the Blue Hole. The Blue Hole is one of Santa Rosa's greatest natural resources and a geological wonder. It has a water depth of approximately 81 feet and the water temperature stays at a constant 61 degrees Fahrenheit year round.



There is an artesian spring from an underground source that supplies water to the Blue Hole at a rate of over 3000 gallons per minute. This rate of water flow creates a large amount of natural erosion as rock and soil are loosened and fall to the bottom. Along with the natural erosion, a former Santa Rosa city administrator ordered for rock and debris to be dropped in the Blue Hole to close off the opening to the cavern system located at the bottom. The decision to close off the opening was based in part due to a number of diving fatalities as divers would attempt to navigate the caverns. The divers would run out of air or become lost and disoriented and could not find their way back.



The massive amounts of debris, both natural and man-placed, cut off the artesian water flow into the Blue Hole, but the debris could not stop the flow for long. The water found new ways of pouring into the Blue Hole. The water soon forced its way in from the side walls, which caused an even greater amount of erosion. This new erosion from the side walls deteriorated the stability, and the Blue Hole was placed into an emergency state of repair. After 20 years from the initial decision to fill in the Blue Hole, the Army Divers were called on by U.S. Corps of Engineer Albuquerque District to Santa Rosa to remove the rock and silt that has been clogging this natural wonder.

On 30 May, a team of 23 divers deployed to Santa Rosa to begin the arduous process. The plan

to remove the debris called for three techniques which were manual labor, a hydraulic submersible pump system, and an airlift system. The manual labor technique is nothing more than having the strongest divers pick up the largest rocks they could find and place them into a basket. The second technique consisted of the hydraulic submersible pump that was suspended approximately 40 feet in the water column with intake hoses extending all the way to the silt bottom. Divers would call for "switch-on" and the pump would begin sucking a silt and water mixture at a rate of 800 gallons per minute. The third technique was a basic airlift, which consisted of an 8-inch hose that pumped out small gravel and rock. Air was supplied to the 8-inch hose at a pressure of 110 pounds per square inch resulting in a flow of over 1,000 gallons per minute.

Each method was very productive because the divers could work all three techniques at the same time. The dive plan called for three divers to dive to a depth of approximately 81 feet for 90 to 100 minutes. At an altitude of over 4,600 feet, the equivalent diving depth is 100 to 110 feet and the decompression schedules had to be modified accordingly. Using surface decompression, the Army divers would spend anywhere from 38 to 51 minutes in the hyperbaric recompression chamber breathing 100 percent oxygen to reduce the amount of time needed to off-gas the residual nitrogen left in the body.

The dive plan in conjunction with the decompression schedules permitted the divers to complete over 8 hours of underwater work everyday. The underwater work resulted in over 100 cubic yards of rock and over 120 cubic yards of silt being removed after 30 days of work. The mayor of Santa Rosa and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were extremely pleased at the efforts of the Army divers because they would work longer, harder, and more efficiently than any other commercial dive company hired in years past. Each Army diver received a complimentary lifetime pass and dive permit to the Blue Hole due to their outstanding work. The hard work and dedication of the U.S. Army Divers to the mission secured future training opportunities in the years to come at the Blue Hole in Santa Rosa, New Mexico.



7th Engineer Detachment (Dive)

By CPT Daniel P. Curtin Jr.

"Triton 6"

Commander, 7th Engineer Dive Team

Aloha from the Army Divers of the Pacific! A lot of great things have transpired in the wake of our preparation for deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

We would first like congratulate the former Commander of the 7th Dive Detachment, CPT George Mitroka, on his new assignment as a team leader for a JPAC recovery team. They travel the globe organizing the remains recovery of U.S. Service members. CPT Mitroka left his footprint all over the world with the 7th Dive, and did a tremendous job of team

building during his tenure. He will be missed. It was an honor for me to take the 7th Guidon from him on 22 June 2006 in our traditional underwater Change of Command Ceremony.

Congratulations to our Diving Supervisors just back from BNCOC: SSGs Haldeman and Clark as well as SGTs Faille and Williams. Congratulations also go to SPCs Peterson and Tomlin for the successful completion of the Warrior Leader Course and their placement on the Commandant's List. SPC Tomlin is the second Soldier in the history of the Hawaii NCO Academy to achieve what is referred to as the Triple Crown. He was awarded the Commandant's Leadership Award, Distinguished Honor Graduate and the Commandant's Inspection Award. HOO-YAH DEEP SEA!

The 7th proudly saw the promotion of SPC Haney to SGT, and



1LT Denike to CPT—both well deserved. CPT Denike left the 7th in September to serve as the 29th Engineer Battalion S3 Plans Officer. He has done a stellar job running the Detachment's operations around the world as Executive Officer and he will be sorely missed. The man filling those shoes, 2LT Adrian Biggerstaff, is already on the ground (and in the water) and working hard to get his feet beneath him prior to our deployment to OIF this November. We expect great things from 2LT Biggerstaff, and I'm sure he will exceed our expectations.

In addition to a new Executive Officer, we have the great fortune of two new fresh fish from the Dive schoolhouse—PFCs Sexton and Loper, SPC Seidman (a new Mechanic from the 82 ESC), and SGT Jordan (a new Supply Sergeant). SPC Evers has joined us from Fort Eustis. These Soldiers came to the unit excited about the upcoming deployment and were immediately immersed in the many tasks required to get us prepared. They have all performed very well and are already finding their places in the team. Welcome aboard!

Congratulations to the Forkhamer's! Our previous family readiness group (FRG) Leader, Penny Forkhamer, has given birth to a baby girl! She handed over the FRG reins to Kimberly Tomlin. Penny has been a very reliable leader and we're truly thankful for her efforts. Kimberly has been taking a very active part in the FRG and is getting a lot of support from others in our group. She has also been working with SSG Hayden who will be our Rear Detachment Commander during the deployment. SSG Hayden has also assumed the role of newlywed, so congratulate him when you see him!

Following PTA, the 7th was tasked by DA with surveying UXO off the west coast of Oahu. We conducted more than 40 dives with average depths of 130 fsw using NITROX. We took hundreds of photos to document the sizes and types of ordnance, and NOAA utilized the information gathered to promote safe diving for recreational divers. The resulting safety poster features the 7th Dive photo model SPC Geffert.



WARNING!

Munitions are dangerous, and may not be easily recognizable!
Never touch, move or disturb a munition!

REMEMBER THE 3RS

RECOGNIZE! Recognize when you may have encountered a munition.

RETREAT! Do not touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area.

REPORT! At sea: Use Channel 16 (156.800 MHz)
On land: Call 911

**DON'T BE TEMPTED!
TOUCHING MUNITIONS
CAN BE DEADLY!**

See the US Army's DVD Safety Education Package www.dmas.mil/CEOS/sgp

Recognize
Retreat
Report

MUNITIONS

MUNITIONS

MUNITIONS

MUNITIONS

CPT Denike led a world class mission to Kwajalein in July to implode the dilapidated Pacific Bachelor Quarters, a 450-foot-long, 3-story barracks building for U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll. It took CPT Denike 5 months of research and planning to receive the approval from the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board to use nonstandard military explosive techniques and extremely reduced minimum safe distances. Using commercial implosion style blasting techniques, he and a team of eight other divers (1SG Heikkinen, SFC Green, SSG Peterson, SGT Foster, SGT Jimenez, SGT Haney, SPC Geffert, and SPC Tomlin) loaded the building with 95 pounds of dynamite. From a distance of 681 feet, the team, along with the entire Kwajalein Island community, watched as the igniters were pulled and the building fell. As the dust cleared, all that remained was a collapsed structure. History was made as this was the first time military explosives were used to implode a building in a confined, urban environment. Also while in Kwajalein, the team was able to detonate underwater UXO.



The UXO was a 5-inch naval gun round remaining from WWII which was lying off the coast in a location cited for a new fiber-optic cable to run between the islands of the Atoll. Using C4, the divers sympathetically detonated the round to remove the hazard for U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll. Congratulations and a job well done to CPT Denike and his team as he completed his final mission as the Executive Officer of 7th Dive and truly went out with a bang.

At the end of July, the Commander and 1SG went to visit the 544th in Kuwait in preparation for our turn in the box. The visit was very successful since we were not getting any reliable information from other sources. We learned a lot in our twelve days with the Seamonkeys. They have done some solid engineer work and made a good name for themselves and

Army Divers in general. We look forward to continuing to build upon the reputation they have established. HOO-YAH DEEP SEA!

The Detachment continued their ongoing support and excellent relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) by returning to Sand Island the first week of August to remove a large steel I-beam underwater. Led by SSG Hayden, the Detachment removed a 20 foot long by 1 foot high steel I-beam underneath a dock which impeded vessel mooring. Not only was this beneficial to the USCG, it provided a valuable training opportunity for the Detachment in underwater cutting and welding as we prepare for deployment in support of OIF.





We have also been able to squeeze some great training into the packing schedule this summer. The 82 ESC hosted a live-fire training event for 7th Dive at the Grenade House on Schofield Barracks. The Divers spent the first part of the day honing their weapons handling skills, quickly advancing to room entry and clearing techniques. All teams were proficient enough to qualify during a blank-fire exercise in the shoot house for a final live-fire exercise. Achieving this much proficiency in an exercise is a great confidence booster. Training in close proximity with live rounds greatly increases our confidence in each other. With the many new additions to our team, it was important to have the opportunity to move and shoot together.

The 7th spent another 2 weeks in September supporting the University of Hawaii (UH) doing some marine construction at their research facility at Coconut Island (Gilligan's Island). UH always takes good care of the divers

since we help them take care of their environment. We get to enjoy private beaches, a marine sanctuary, and they have offered us the use of the facility for our "Going Away" party.

Our next newsletter update from the Denizens of the Deep will come from the Middle East. Thanks to all the Soldiers and families for their support and flexibility in our very busy schedule. The 7th Dive is providing a much needed asset in OIF. Thanks to the efforts of 544th, there are currently enough missions in the region to keep us busy for our year there. I have complete confidence in the abilities of our Soldiers to be successful in our mission; We are ready. As we go forward to do great things, we will surely miss our families, the surf, the tropical green, and the Aloha of our island home. God Bless.

The National Guard Has Dive Teams?

Soldiers past and present—Yes, it is true the National Guard has decided to activate two dive teams. One will be placed in the warm sunny climate of Corpus Christi, Texas, and the other will be placed along the waterfront in the Connecticut area with ski slopes just a short drive away. Currently, the teams are looking for one or two Active Guard Reserve Soldiers to fill the Master diver positions and possibly a First Class diver position. They are also looking at hiring some maintenance technicians (WG-7 to WG-9 pay scale) to take care of all the equipment on a full time basis. The maintenance technicians will also be 21D soldiers one weekend a month. This is a great opportunity to stay in diving or to get back into diving while you finish off your education. You can also work full time at another job and become one of the Nations highly acclaimed weekend warriors.

If interested, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the right individual based on what team you are considering. <Michael.vonkeyserling@us.army.mil>

Chief Dive Supervisor Notes

By MSG James Spaw

I am really just getting my feet on the ground but working some issues that the Commander's, 1SG's and I feel are important. Some of these issues are Doctrine changes, Diving Safety, and Dive Reporting. However before I get into those areas; I would like to take this opportunity to thank the operational units for doing such a great job out in the field. Many of our Senior leaders have stopped by to let me know what a tremendous job you are doing. My favorite quote to date is – "They are the superstars of the Engineer Regiment"

Doctrine: There are two Doctrine updates that I am currently working, with target suspense of May 2007. The first is to update Chapter 7 AR 385-40 *Accident Reporting and Recording*. The "Who, When, and Where" needs to be updated. The last time AR 385-40 was updated for diving was in 1994. As discussed and agreed upon at the last Dive Conference, Diver Rate Qualification Worksheets will be standardized in AR 611-75 with input provided by all commands. Each command may have additional requirements but the minimum qualification requirements will have to be met as will be referenced in AR 611-75. I am also assisting SFC von Keyserling in the development of the *Commanders Guide to Military Diving*.

Dive Safety: Reestablishing inspections of diving life support equipment, operational procedures (OPs) and emergency procedures (EPs), Diver qualifications for rate, and Diver qualifications needed for equipment maintenance. This is something that I feel strongly about and will push to implement before the end of fiscal year 2007.

Dive Reporting - AR 611-75 requires Units/Diving Supervisors to report dives on a 1262 (Dive Site Worksheet) and transfer the dives to a 1262-1(Command Dive Log). Also each diver is required to maintain his own dive log. Historically dive teams maintain a diver smooth log and chamber smooth log at each command. This system is antiquated and needs to be updated to a computer based system. The "how" has not been established, but it will be this offices responsibility to receive and maintain a log of all dives conducted by Army Engineer Divers.

Anyone with safety concerns/issues, doctrinal input, or proposals may feel free to drop me an email. While these issues are best handled through your chain of command I have an "Open Email policy" and value input from the field. My email is james.spaw@wood.army.mil.



From the Training Developer's Desk

By SFC Michael von Keyserling

First and foremost, thanks to all the divers out there that send in their articles and comments on what they would like to see in *Bottom Times*. The Skill Level 1&2 STP is with the editors; hopefully they will be done correcting all my typos and putting everything into the correct and approved Army Terminology in a month or two. I say this knowing that *Bottom Times* goes to them for editing as well. Other than the STP, I have been working on an Air, Land, Sea Application (ALSA) publication that lays out what each type of diver does within our U.S. military forces. If all goes well, we will have the final Joint working group meeting in late January. After that the ALSA publication, tentatively called the Commander's Guide to Military Diving, will be staffed through all the services with a projected publication date of summer of 2007.

I have also been researching different publications produced by our government in regards to diving. In particular, how divers aid in the security and defense of the homeland and how the government sees diving as helping win the war on terrorism. As U.S. Military Divers we are a small group, as Army Engineer Divers we are even smaller, it is up to us to find ways to better support our great nation. Realistically, our leaders at the General Officer level and above; do not have the time to look at a 138-person unit every week and decide how we can support the regiment, the Army, and the Nation. I urge all of you to look into the Universal Joint Task List, Army Universal Task List, National Defense Strategy, National Military Strategy, Homeland Response Plans, and the many other documents produced by our government.

When you review these documents, consider how we can help to achieve the goals of Assured Mobility, provide for Homeland Defense, and react to National Emergencies. Continue writing informative articles for the local newspapers and magazines. Review FM 3-34, Engineer Operations, to get a clear understanding of what Assured Mobility entails. Remember that diving is just one small piece of the pie, we as NCOs and Officers must search out new and intelligent ways to show how Engineer Divers make a difference in not only the success of Engineer operations but in the safety and security of the United States of America.

U.S. Army Divers Association (USADA) Reunion 2007 – Savannah, Georgia

Don't miss this opportunity to visit Georgia's first city and the home of Army Diving, Fort Screvens. This year's reunion will begin on Thursday, 2 August, and will end Sunday morning at our annual Members Breakfast. This year we are adding a Diver's Challenge and a Murder Mystery Cruise, along with a picnic on the beach at Tybee Island. Don't miss this opportunity to hear General Tim McHale, an army diver and our guest speaker for this year's event. It is not too early to complete your registration form for the reunion and make your reservations at the Doubletree Hotel in Savannah's Historic District.

U.S. Army Divers Association 2007 Reunion Registration and Order Form

A USADA member is anyone who has completed an application for membership and meets the qualifications for membership set forth in the USADA by-laws.

Name: _____ Guest(s) Name: _____

Activity	# Members/ Guests	\$ Each	Total \$
Thursday Murder Afloat Mystery Cruise 9:30 - 11:00 PM	# attending: _____	x \$20	= \$
Friday Morning Golf	# of golfers: _____	x \$35	= \$
Friday Afternoon Bowling	# of bowlers: _____	x \$10	= \$
Friday Night Social	# members/guests: _____	x \$20	= \$
Friday Night Sitting Service 7:00 – 11:00 PM	# _____ ages: _____	x \$15	= \$
Saturday Picnic	# Members/Guests Over 12 _____ # Children 12 & Under _____	x \$12 x \$5	= \$ = \$
USADA T-Shirts	Sm _____ Med _____ Lg _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____	x \$10 x \$13	= \$ = \$
USADA Polo Shirts	Sm _____ Med _____ Lg _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____	x \$25 x \$29	= \$ = \$
You no longer pay dues for membership in the USADA. If you would like to make a contribution, we welcome your support.			= \$
Total of your check or money order <u>made payable to the USADA</u>. Do not send cash.			= \$

Sunday Breakfast Buffet & Business Meeting
9:00 a.m. at the Garden Inn

() I will attend # _____ () I will NOT attend

Diver's Challenge—for Divers of all ages—no cost

() I will participate # _____ () I will not participate

**Make your hotel reservations directly with the Doubletree Inn by calling 1-800-222-TREE or 1-912-790-7000.
Be sure you tell them you are with the U.S. Army Divers Association.
The cost should be \$119.00 per night plus tax and an \$8 per night parking fee.**

PHASE I

From the desk of MDV Irvin

Hoo-Yah, there are 3 instructors here now. With open arms, we welcome SSG Connolly and his wife Tricia to Fort Leonard Wood.

Currently there are three Soldiers going through the course and two that have graduated. Not bad, considering that we started with 11 for this class and 18 for the last one. Out of those 29, only one of them was prior service. As you may know, 21D came off the BEAR program this month, which means we will probably not see as many prior service members applying for the MOS. With the decrease in seasoned soldiers, I foresee the attrition rate rising back to an average of 80 percent. I encourage everyone out there that runs into a motivated, high-speed individual (that can swim) to point them to our Web site at <http://www.wood.army.mil/577th/diver/> and have them submit a packet.

From the desk of SSG Bascomb

The fall is upon us and Missouri is starting to get brisk. We are staying warm with three back-to-back classes. We will have a greatly welcomed Holiday break and then we will be back at it again in the New Year.

Dive candidates are slim pick'n here at the Phase I course. SSG Ryan "The Brick Wall" Connolly has begun instructing; only the finest candidates get through him. SSG Connolly has been here a week and he is already coddling the students. We have started putting Tabasco sauce in his food to make him mean.

From the desk of SSG Connolly, Ryan

Hello from Phase I. I finally started teaching this week here at Fort Leonard Wood, after 3 weeks of instructor training. I can already tell this will be a challenging assignment to deal with the new Soldiers we are getting into the field. I think it will be one of the more rewarding positions I have held. I miss all you guys at Fort Eustis, and look forward to joining you on some missions this year. Have a great Thanksgiving.



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